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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,001	10/29/2003	Nobuhiro Nishiyama	204552030600	5307

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TUAN N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2828

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/695,001	Applicant(s) NISHIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Tuan N. Nguyen	Art Unit 2828	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13, 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/29/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In respond to applicant's Applicant Arguments/Remarks made in 06/02/2006, claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Lebby et al. (US 5838703).

With respect to claim 1, Lebby et al. '703 shows and discloses a semiconductor laser assembly (*TITLE*) comprising: a substrate including a first mount surface and a second mount surface (*Fig 1: a first and second mount surfaces where photodiode 16 and laser 14 mounted on substrate 13*); a submount mounted on the first mount surface of the substrate (*Fig 1: a first submount under laser 14 mounted on first mount surface of substrate 13*); a laser diode mounted on the submount and having at least one light emission point and an electrode (*Fig 1: 14 laser with light emission mounted on submount with an electrode where metal wire 26 connecting to*); and a monitoring photodiode mounted on the second mount surface of the substrate and having a light-receiving surface which receives light emitted from the light emission point (*Fig 2: 48 photodiode receiving light from laser mounted on second mount surface*), and a relay electrode

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connected to the electrode of the laser diode by a metal wire (*Fig 1: a relay electrode metal wire 26 connected to the laser*).

With respect to claims 2, 3 Lebby et al. '703 shows wherein a height of the first mount surface in a direction normal to an upper surface of the substrate is higher than that of the second mount surface (*Fig 1: 14, 16*) and the metal wire is disposed approximately consistent with an optical axis of the laser diode.

With respect to claim 4 Lebby et al. '703 shows wherein the light-receiving surface of the monitoring photodiode is located approximately lower than the light emission point of the laser diode (*Fig 1: 14, 16*).

With respect to claim 5 Lebby et al. '703 shows the first and second mount surfaces of the substrate and a laser diode mount surface of the submount are approximately parallel to one another (*Fig 1: 14, 16*).

With respect to claim 6 Lebby et al. '703 shows the laser diode mount surface of the submount is *approximately at the same height* as the light-receiving surface of the monitoring photodiode (*Fig 1: 14, 16*)(*Fig 2: 42*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or non-obviousness.
5. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Lebby et al. (US 5838703).

With respect to claim 7, the claim further requires wherein the submount is made of an insulating material having higher heat conductivity than the monitoring photodiode. Lebby et al. '703 shows and discloses the above, but Lebby et al. '703 did not discretely disclose the submount heat conductivity of the laser is higher than the monitor photodiode. It has been held that omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art, in this case it is well known in the art that laser elements frequently mounted on high heat conductor element to reduce heat generate from the laser to increase its operational life.

With respect to claim 8, the claim further requires wherein the submount has a length in a direction of an optical axis of the laser diode that is approximately equal to a resonator length of the laser diode. Lebby et al. '703 did not discretely disclose the submount has a length approximately equal to the laser resonator length. It has been held where the general conditions

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of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

With respect to claims 9, 10 the claim further requires wherein at least one additional laser diode is mounted on the submount, said additional laser diode also has at least one light emission point and an electrode, and the monitoring photodiode is provided with an additional relay electrode connected to the electrode of said additional laser diode by a metal wire. It has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art, in this case having multiple light emission laser in the same system to increase its power output or increase the system operation ranges.

6. Claims 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebby et al. (US 5838703) in view of PRIOR ART (Fig 7a).

With respect to claim 13, and 14 Lebby et al. '703 discloses the above, the claims further requires wherein the substrate is composed of a metal lead and the relay metal wire electrode is connected to the substrate. PRIOR ART (Fig 7a: 205c) shows a relay metal wire lead is connecting to substrate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Lebby '703 the element as taught or suggested by PRIOR ART (Fig 7a: 205c) to ground the laser system for operation stability.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 11 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The references of the record fail to teach or suggest:

Claim 11:

wherein two separated metal layers are disposed on the submount, and the laser diode is mounted on the submount through the metal layers in a junction-down manner.

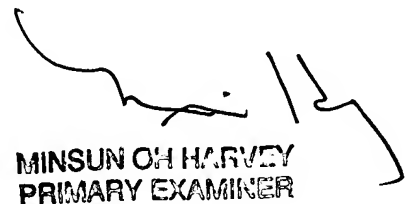
Communication Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan N Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1948. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:30 - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harvey Minsun can be reached on (571) 272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tuan N. Nguyen



**MINSUN OH HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**